

*Heritage Day*

**Mr. Macquarrie:** A few years ago the Liberal party in Prince Edward Island thought it should scour the highways and byways to get a more highly educated man than Macquarrie. It discovered the hon. gentleman, whose erudition and education I salute and respect. I look upon him as one of the most distinguished Islanders of this generation or any other following a very distinguished and honourable family in our province.

I want to say, too, that I have the greatest respect for what he has done in the course of his duty as committee chairman. He has brought broadmindedness and, generally, an apolitical attitude toward some very important issues facing the Canadian people and parliament.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Macquarrie:** It is not for me to give advice to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in the twilight of my political career, but if I were forced to do so I would say this to him. The people of Windsor and many hundreds of thousands of Canadians cannot understand why the hon. gentleman is not in the cabinet.

● (1622)

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Macquarrie:** He has abilities and capabilities to spare, once you even him up with the present members. That is the only nasty thing I will say. It is not meant to be nasty; it is a tribute to my hon. friend from Prince Edward Island, and if the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) takes that advice and my party loses ground, then we will charge it up to my professorial rather than my political posture.

I am very pleased with the leadership the hon. member has given to this matter, and I am very disheartened by what the government has done about it. In my couple of decades here I have noted that there is a great tendency on the part of this government, if there is something developed by a private member which wins acceptance in parliament or in the country, immediately to cut off that initiative of the private member and to produce a bill.

I remember that time after time my very dear friend the Liberal member for Cochrane (Mr. Stewart) produced bills to get the likenesses of Canadian prime ministers on the currency of our country. God help us, it is nearly time that that was done. He also introduced a bill to get the flag of Canada into this chamber. His bills were always talked out or ignored. I was sitting in the House when the then minister of finance stood up without even consulting the hon. member for Cochrane and said that the government would bring out an issue of currency with Laurier on the five dollar bill and John A. Macdonald on the ten. I think that is very suitable because when you buy a bottle of rum, you need a ten dollar bill, and I always use a John A. Macdonald bill. I think I am being very

[Mr. MacGuigan.]

historic as well as gustatorily correct. I am told Borden is on the one hundred dollar bill—I have not seen one—and that Mackenzie King is on the fifty. We should have done that long ago.

We Canadians have been reluctant to let our Canadianism show. I went to school in the United States in grade one. Perhaps that is where I went astray. Abe Lincoln was there, and George Washington was there. I was taught exactly how to salute the flag, what to do with my hand and what words to say, and I can say them yet. But will we give John A. Macdonald credit? Will we give Laurier a chance? Will we honour Borden? Will we respectfully give credit to the great men who brought into being a great country?

I have studied—and the hon. member is a great scholar—the nation builders of the world. I have taught in university about Cavour, Mazzini, Bismarck and all the rest of them. But our founding fathers do not have to take second place to any statesmen in the world.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Macquarrie:** The task which faced Macdonald, Brown, Cartier and McGee was enormously difficult. The challenge was tremendous and horrendous, but they overcame it. I often say, and I am sure my hon. friend agrees with me, that we are unworthy successors if we allow what those men created to disappear. Surely to God on this St. Patrick's Day—that Scottish born saint whom we all honour—we must realize that bringing this country into being was far more difficult than keeping it together in a time of advanced communication. In 1864—and it is wonderful that I am following the hon. member because Canada began in Charlottetown, the cradle of confederation—the problems of communication and transportation were enormous and difficult. The people did not know one another. It was reported in a very distinguished Nova Scotia newspaper that maritimers did not know many Canadians, and the few they did know they did not like.

However, it took people like Macdonald and Brown to build Canada. Brown even started to drink during his visit to Charlottetown. We are very proud of that. He had quite a good time. He probably relaxed for the first time in his life. All these people decided that the ideal of the country was very important. Yet we are reluctant to honour Macdonald. We are reluctant to have likenesses of these men on our coins. We are totally unmindful of Cartier. Having studied a good deal of history I often wonder what might have happened had Macdonald died before Cartier and Cartier had become the leader of our party. If that had happened, today we would be what I think we should be, the favourites of the province of Quebec. However, that did not happen. These men were great figures. Only recently have we even mustered up the courage to put on the stamps of the nation the likenesses of wonderful men like Mr. Pearson, Mr. St. Laurent and a man I did not like very much but admired greatly, Mr. Bennett. These people were